

304 CMR 7.00: MANAGEMENT PLANS AND MASSACHUSETTS WILDLANDS

Section

7.01: Authority and Purpose

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7.01: Authority and Purpose

(1) The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Management ("Commissioner" and "DEM") promulgates 304 CMR 7.00 pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 1 and 2F, M.G.L. c. 21, § 4A; and M.G.L. c. 132A, § 7.

(2) The purpose of 304 CMR 7.00 is to establish procedures for the Board of Environmental Management and the Commissioner to prepare, adopt and revise official management plans for state reservations, parks and forests and to designate Massachusetts Wildlands.

7.02: Management Plans

For each state reservation, park, and forest, DEM shall follow a management planning process which shall produce the following components:

- (a) a description of the land's unique resources;
- (b) a discussion of the land's potential use;
- (c) land stewardship zoning analysis; and
- (d) action recommendations

Each Management Plan shall have public participation in its development; review and approval by the Board of Environmental Management.

7.03: Massachusetts Wildlands

(1) Massachusetts Wildlands means portions of DEM properties which are designated as either Representative Natural Areas or Backcountry.

(2) Representative Natural Area (RNA) means a natural area defined by noticeable boundaries which exemplify a native or naturalized species or community with a high level of integrity and minimal disturbance. RNA's may be nominated from lands which are under DEM Conservation Restrictions.

(3) Backcountry Area means a natural area located in the more remote portions of DEM properties which provide existing opportunities for hiking and canoeing in a wild area.

(4) Area Management Summary (AMS) means the abstract of the procedures utilized to manage Wildlands. Each AMS will include recreation and resource management procedure, policy and regulation as well as area maps and a description of existing and proposed research.

7.04: Management of Massachusetts Wildlands

(1) DEM shall prepare an Area Management Summary to manage an R.N.A. or Backcountry.

(2) The following activities are not permitted within Massachusetts Wildlands: open fires; motorized trail use; destruction or collection of vegetation; geological materials; or wildlife species; and/or aquatic organisms. Mountain bikes are not permitted in RNA's or in the backcountry areas: the Hooper, Range Ridgetops, Alander Mtn. Such restrictions shall not be interpreted to include prohibition of hunting, fishing and trapping at DEM properties where those activities are lawfully permitted, or Division operations necessary to enhance public access and safety.

7.04: continued

(3) With the approval of the Board of Environmental management, the Commissioner can remove the Massachusetts Wildlands designation from an area if one or more of the following conditions occurs:

- (a) Significant damage/change that affects the integrity of the ecosystem; or
- (b) another site can better serve the needs of the Massachusetts Wildlands program.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

304 CMR 7.00: M.G.L. c. 21, § 4A; c. 132A, § 7.